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NYTIMES, JAN. 20, 1986, p. 14

U.S. PLANS TO MAKE DEFECTORS SECURE

NYT, JAN. 20, 86

Study on Turnabout of K.G.B.
Officer Prompts Proposals.

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By PHILIP SHENON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 19 — The Reagan Administration is actively considering plans to provide guaranteed lifetime incomes to high-ranking defectors and may attempt to reduce the waiting time required for conferral of American citizenship, a senior White House official said today.

The official said the proposals were the result of an interagency review of the handling by the United States of Vitaly S. Yurchenko, the Soviet intelligence official who defected to the West last summer but later decided to return to Moscow.

The Administration, by offering permanent income and conferring citizenship more speedily, would hope to prompt additional defections while reducing the chance that a defector would want to leave the United States, said the White House official, who asked not to be identified.

"Yurchenko was an embarrassment, of course," a law-enforcement official said. "We are looking for ways to be certain that it does not happen again."

The handling of Mr. Yurchenko, described by the Administration as a senior officer of the K.G.B., the Soviet intelligence agency, prompted harsh criticism of the Central Intelligence Agency and its methods of dealing with defectors. There were accusations that the agency had failed to pay enough attention to his psychological needs.

Criticism on Jobs and Income

Although not a direct concern in the Yurchenko case, the intelligence community has also been criticized for purported reluctance to provide assured incomes for defectors. Some have complained that the C.I.A. has failed to help them find suitable jobs.

If word of the financial problems of defectors gets back to their native countries, "We'll certainly have fewer defectors," said an intelligence source.

Another proposal under consideration at the White House would sharply reduce the waiting time, now sometimes as long as 8 to 10 years, facing some defectors who want to become American citizens.

Senator Patrick J. Leahy, the Vermont Democrat who is vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Federal guidelines already permit defectors to be adequately compensated for their information. And he said defectors were usually permitted expedited citizenship, when requested.

But Senator Leahy said he might welcome even more concrete guidelines. "I can see where we might want to clarify them," he said. "I do think, though, that we have adequate provisions to cover a defector's income. There is a great deal of flexibility."

Turnabout Prompts a Review

After Mr. Yurchenko returned to the Soviet Union, the Administration began an interagency review — including representatives of the C.I.A., National Security Agency and Justice Department — to find ways to prevent a similar defection.

"We want to know, quite frankly, how one can do this better," the White House official said. "Knowing how to properly treat defectors is one of the most complex issues to be dealt with in the world of espionage."

Intelligence specialists have said that virtually all defectors to the United States suffer severe emotional strain that prompts them to consider returning to their homeland.

The White House official said that the interagency team was considering revisions in the responsibilities of the C.I.A. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in dealing with defections.

Mr. Yurchenko, described as one of the most senior Russian officers ever to defect to the West, fled from C.I.A. handlers in early November and returned to the Soviet Union.

At a news conference at the Soviet Embassy on Nov. 4, he said that he had been kidnapped by American authorities in Rome last summer and then held prisoner by C.I.A. officials. The Administration has repeatedly denied his story.

JAN. 20, 1986 p. 11

THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 1986 11

FBI may take over defector cases from CIA in wake of Yurchenko issue

By George Geddes
Associated Press

WASHINGTON. — The Reagan administration, unhappy with the CIA's handling of former Soviet KGB agent Vitaly Yurchenko, may reduce the CIA role in defector cases and give primary responsibility to the FBI, sources say.

"I think it's a great move," said a senior White House official, who contended that defectors invariably have been able to establish much closer relations with FBI personnel than CIA officers.

The official said the proposal has been under consideration for some time and was given additional impetus by Yurchenko's surprise decision to return to the Soviet Union last November after three months in CIA custody.

Edward Djerejian, White House spokesman, acknowledged that the procedures for dealing with defectors are being reviewed, but he declined comment on the options under consideration. FBI and CIA spokesmen refused to discuss the issue.

Other experts, all of whom declined to be identified, said the government is considering a variety of proposals to entice disillusioned Soviet bloc agents to defect and to avoid another embarrassment similar to the one involving Yurchenko.

The options include granting

high-ranking defectors an automatic permanent income, reducing the five- to 10-year waiting period for the conferral of American citizenship and the creation of a "think tank" comprised exclusively of defectors, the sources said.

Such an institution, they said, would provide a pool of wisdom government policy makers could draw on.

Discussing Yurchenko, Donald Jameson, a former CIA official who has had extensive experience with defectors said, "Nobody could have handled that case worse than the CIA."

Yurchenko, who defected in July, fled from his CIA handlers on Nov. 2 and returned to the Soviet Union four days later after turning himself in to the Soviet Embassy.

He is regarded by US officials as a genuine defector although he claimed he was abducted, drugged, tortured and held incommunicado by the CIA before his escape.

Sen. Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.) said the CIA has made defector resettlement a "dead-end career assignment." He advocates giving the FBI the leading role for dealing with defectors.

Several other experts said a permanent income for defectors would be the best way to compensate them for the valuable infor-

mation they provide the government.

Because of CIA reluctance to provide a lifetime income to defectors, their principal fear is that "they will fall off the economic ladder," one observer said.

Defectors' experiences

He said one defector who had provided extremely useful information to the CIA was at the point of fleeing to South America because of his disgust with the agency's refusal to give him an assured income.

Nicolae Horodincea, a Romanian defector, expressed profound disillusionment with the CIA, contending that the agency broke promises to provide him with a job, a house, life insurance and medical insurance.

"The CIA makes zombies of defectors," said Horodincea, who has had no contact with the agency in more than four years.

Vladimir Sakharov, a Soviet defector, said the CIA repeatedly ignored his academic accomplishments and sent him to a motel management school. After the school went bankrupt, the CIA recommended that he sell shoes, clothes or cars, he said.

Sakharov broke with the CIA three years ago and said he is doing well on his own. He lectures frequently and is writing a book.

Asked for comment, the CIA said it never discusses treatment of defectors.

At present, the CIA has statutory responsibility for defectors, but FBI personnel often become involved on an ad hoc basis.

According to one analyst, the bureau is much better equipped than the CIA to assist defectors who settle outside Washington because of the FBI's nationwide responsibilities and superior manpower.

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